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## JOURNAL OF THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY,

SEPTEMBER, 1864.

*The STATISTICS of the ROMAN CATHOLICS in ENGLAND and WALES.**By WILLIAM GOLDEN LUMLEY, ESQ., LL.M., of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law, and one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Statistical Society.*

[Read before the Statistical Society, 17th May, 1864.]

HIS Eminence Cardinal Wiseman, in an address delivered to the Catholic Congress, at Malines, on the 21st August, 1863, which has been lately published in English, states this proposition: "You are aware, gentlemen, that Catholicism in England is in a progressive state. This is a truth not only recognized by all the members of the Catholic Church, but admitted also by those who do not belong to her. Everybody in England seems to acknowledge that Catholicism is daily gaining ground upon Protestantism. \* \* \* A few facts will enable you better to judge of the importance of this progress, and these facts will consist of simple statistics carefully framed. There is no eloquence more conclusive or more persuasive than that of figures on a subject like this, and all fear of exaggeration will be thus entirely avoided."

The Cardinal then proceeds to show by figures, that the number of priests has increased in England in the following manner:—

In 1830 there were 434 priests, in 1863 there were 1,242; in 1830 the churches were 410, in 1863 they were 872. There were 16 convents in 1830, the number has arisen in 1863 to 162. In 1830 there were no houses for religious men, but in 1850 there were 11. In 1863 the number amounts to 53.

In a subsequent passage it is stated, that in 1826 there were in London 48 priests; in 1851, 113; in 1863, 194; now (*i.e.* in 1864), 200. The number of the churches for these three periods respectively, amounts to 24, 46, and 102. At the first of these dates there was but one convent, at the second 9; now there are above 25; lastly, while, in 1826, religious houses of men and institutions of Catholic charity had no place in the statistics of the diocese, the first now amounts to 15, the second to 34.

These are the statistics supplied by the address. The other topics which, in the opinion of his Eminence, establish his proposition, are of a political and social character, and are not open to discussion in this place.

It must be observed that no authority is cited for the figures set out in the discourse; they rest upon the authority of the Cardinal's own statement.

Taking that statement as it is, there is something remarkable about it. In London there were in 1826, 48 priests to 24 churches, *i.e.*, 2 to each; but it seems that in 1830, though there were 410 churches in all England and Wales, there were but 434 priests, not more than one to each church; and in 1863, to 872 churches there were 1,242 priests, *i.e.*, only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to each. There is therefore no great increase in the priesthood in reference to the congregations.

And here it is to be observed that Mr. H. Mann, in his Report on the Census of 1851 [Part on Religious Worship] (quoting from a Roman Catholic work on Catholic statistics), gives the number of chapels for 1830 as 392, being 18 less than the number stated by his Eminence.

With reference also to the convents and religious houses mentioned by the Cardinal, the Rev. F. Signini, Catholic priest at Cardiff, in a letter to the Committee of Council on Education, lately published in a Parliamentary Paper of the House of Commons of this Session, No. 215, writes thus :—

“The convent is nothing but our (school) mistress' house, containing 3 religious sisters employed in the schools, and one lay sister for the house work, though it is usual for Catholics to call any house inhabited by nuns a *convent*.”

Accordingly, in the debate in the House of Commons on the 8th April last, Lord Edward Howard gave this explanation as to the number of convents in this country: “The fact is that, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the convents are established in this way. Two or three nuns go here and there and set up a school, Catholic ladies and gentlemen know that nuns are the best instructors of children, that they win them from vice, and accordingly those ladies and gentlemen are anxious to get nuns to set up schools.”\*

The convents, therefore, whose increase is so much noted, are not those formidable habitations which are heard of in foreign countries, where the young females of the upper and middle ranks of society pass many years of their lives in religious seclusion and restraint.

Now, a variety of facts have been collected from official reports, which elucidate the statistics of the Roman Catholics in England, and it will be seen to what extent they support the statement made in this remarkable essay.

In the first place, it will be remembered that returns were obtained at the Census of 1851, of the accommodation for the worshippers of all religions at that time in this country, and though some complaint of incompleteness has been occasionally made on the part of the Established Church, none has been made from any other quarter.

\* See the “Times” for Saturday, 9th April.

Mr. Mann, in his Report, states, with reference to the Roman Catholics, "that the number of chapels from which returns had been received was 570, with sittings (after an allowance for 48 chapels making no return upon this point) for 186,111. The number of attendants on the Census Sunday, making an estimated addition for 27 chapels, the returns for which were silent upon this point, was, morning, 252,783; afternoon, 53,967; evening, 6,880." He explains how it happened that the number of attendants in the morning exceeded that of the sittings.

In this Report Mr. Mann shows that there were then 14,077 churches belonging to the Church of England, and 20,390 places of worship belonging to all other religious bodies. He shows that from 13,051 returns relating to the former, there was accommodation for 4,922,412 persons, and, making an estimate for the rest, he estimates the accommodation as sufficient for 5,317,915 persons. And he shows that the attendance on the Census Sunday was, in the morning, 2,541,244; afternoon, 1,890,764; evening, 860,543. This refers to the Established Church. It appears from the same report that accommodation was also provided by sittings in other places of worship for 5,094,648 persons, which includes the sittings already noticed as being provided for the Roman Catholics, amounting to 186,111.

The ground, therefore, which is to be gained before the advent looked for by his Eminence, is indeed of very great extent.

Now, as to the number of the priests. According to the Report of the Census Commissioners for 1851, Population Tables II, Summary Table XXVIII, the number of clergymen of the Established Church in England amounted in that year to 17,320, that of the Protestant ministers to 6,405, being together 23,725, the number of Roman Catholic priests, *and other religious teachers*, to 2,253. In the introductory essay, p. lxxxvi, the Roman Catholic priests for Great Britain are set down as 1,093. This number includes those in England and Scotland, and the precise number of priests in England alone is not given. The return of the occupations for Scotland, gives the number of priests, *and other religious teachers*, as 460, leaving 1,793 as the proper number of both for England. It seems, therefore, that it would be not unreasonable to place the number of priests in England in 1851, at 1,000.\*

In the Report for 1861, Table XVII, the number of clergymen of the Established Church was found to be for that year 19,195; of Protestant ministers, 7,840; Missionary scripture readers and itinerant preachers, 1,916 males, 118 females; and Roman Catholic priests, 1,216.

It is also to be noticed that in this table appears for the first time the number of nuns, who are set down as 585.

\* I have since found that the "Report on the Census," vol. iii, p. 33, gives the number as 966.—W. G. L.

It appears, then, that the total number of the religious clergy and ministers in 1851 was 25,978, and in 1861 was 30,285. The total increase was 4,307; that of the Established clergy was 1,875, or 10·8 per cent.; that of the Protestant ministers 1,435, or 22 per cent.; and that of the Roman Catholic priests, 216, or 21·6 per cent.

Taking the clergy, the ministers, and the priests together, the number will be altogether 28,251; of these the proportions are—clergy of the Established Church 67·9 per cent., of the Protestant ministers 27·7 per cent., of Catholic priests 4·3 per cent.

Hence, though the number of priests has increased in a greater ratio than the members of the clergy of the Established Church, they have not increased in so great a ratio as the Protestant ministers. Of course the demand for the clergy depends upon the number of churches, which is limited by that of the parishes, whereas the demand for ministers and priests depends on the congregations, which is not subject to any arbitrary limit.

Of those congregations, some information may be obtained from the following source :—

By the Act 6 and 7 Wm. IV, cap. 85, intituled an “Act for “Marriages in England,” places of worship for the solemnization of marriages, otherwise than according to the forms of the Church of England, are required to be registered with the Registrar-General, and in his Annual Reports he has shown the total number so registered.

In his First Report he showed, at p. 9, that in the year 1838, 1,332 places were so registered, and of 1,257 he was able to set forth the religious denominations.

According to this information, there were then 197 places belonging to the Roman Catholics, nearly one-sixth of the whole.

In the Report for 1841, the number of such places was 263, out of a total of 1,922, much less than one-sixth.

It is not necessary to go through the whole detail until 1851, but from that year to 1861 the following table is extracted :—

Year.	Total Number.	Annual Increase.	Roman Catholic Chapels.	Increase.	Proportion of Roman Catholics to the Total.
1851	3,228	—	378	—	·117
'52	3,340	112	391	13	·117
'53	3,453	113	409	18	·118
'54	3,560	107	421	12	·118
'55	3,658	98	440	19	·120
1856	3,811	163	473	33	·124
'57	3,925	114	490	17	·125
'58	4,072	147	505	15	·124
'59	4,228	156	520	15	·123
'60	4,403	175	540	20	·121
1861	4,564	161	551	11	·120

The increase in ten years of these registered places of worship, was 1,336, of which 1,163 were for Nonconformists, and 173 Roman Catholics, while, during the period from 1851 to October, 1860, according to the Parliamentary Return, No. 556, of the Session 1861, the number of new churches of the Established Church which were consecrated, was 108.

It appears that for a time the number of Roman Catholic churches and chapels was increasing in proportion to that of the other places of religion, but since 1857 the ratio of increase has decreased.

It is not without interest to see how the 378 Roman Catholic churches and chapels registered up to the year 1851, and the 551 registered up to the year 1861, were locally situated, and this is shown by the following table, which is extracted from the Fourteenth and Twenty-Fourth Annual Reports of the Registrar-General:—

	1851.	1861.		1851.	1861.
I. LONDON.			VI. WEST MIDLAND DIVISION.		
Middlesex ( <i>part of</i> ) .....	—	32	Gloucestershire .....	6	10
Surrey ( <i>part of</i> ) .....	—	8	Herefordshire .....	2	2
Kent ( <i>part of</i> ) .....	—	4	Shropshire .....	7	10
II. SOUTH EASTERN DIVISION.			Staffordshire .....	23	34
Surrey .....	6	—	Worcestershire .....	8	8
Surrey ( <i>extra metropo- litan</i> ) .....	—	6	Warwickshire .....	14	21
Kent .....	10	—	VII. NORTH MIDLAND DIVISION.		
Kent ( <i>extra metropolitan</i> ) .....	—	11	Leicestershire .....	8	8
Sussex .....	3	7	Rutlandshire .....	—	—
Hampshire .....	9	11	Lincolnshire .....	6	6
Berkshire .....	5	7	Nottinghamshire .....	4	4
III. SOUTH MIDLAND DIVISION.			Derbyshire .....	7	9
Middlesex .....	22	—	VIII. NORTH WESTERN DIVISION.		
Middlesex ( <i>extra metro- politan</i> ) .....	—	6	Cheshire .....	7	13
Hertfordshire .....	1	1	Lancashire .....	87	127
Buckinghamshire .....	2	2	IX. YORK DIVISION.		
Oxfordshire .....	6	8	West Riding .....	} 45 {	36
Northamptonshire .....	2	3	East „ .....		10
Huntingdonshire .....	—	—	North „ .....		12
Bedfordshire .....	1	1	X. NORTHERN DIVISION.		
Cambridgeshire .....	1	1	Durham .....	16	25
IV. EASTERN DIVISION.			Northumberland .....	12	17
Essex .....	6	10	Cumberland .....	4	8
Suffolk .....	4	4	Westmoreland .....	1	1
Norfolk .....	5	8	XI. WELSH DIVISION.		
V. SOUTH WESTERN DIVISION.			Monmouthshire .....	8	9
Wiltshire .....	2	3	South Wales .....	3	10
Dorsetshire .....	6	8	North „ .....	3	7
Devonshire .....	4	8			
Cornwall .....	3	6			
Somersetshire .....	5	9			

In the Report for 1851, there was no division into registration counties; hence the metropolis, or London, was not distinguished, and must be taken from the three counties of Middlesex, Kent, and Surrey. In 1851, the total number for those three counties was 38; the total number in 1861, was 61; and in the latter year, the number for London was 44.

From this table it appears that the greatest number of Roman Catholic churches is in Lancashire, London, West Riding of Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Durham, and Warwickshire; and in all of these counties there is a large manufacturing population, among whom will be found a considerable proportion of Irish.

It will be observed that the number of churches registered in the metropolis in 1861, was 44. But Cardinal Wiseman, as stated above, asserts that in 1863 the number of churches for London was 102. Now, assuming that there are some places not registered where the Catholic services are performed, the difference between 44 in 1861, and 103 in 1863, is so great as to render any explanation very difficult.

There is some ambiguity as to the term London, as used by his Eminence, but it can hardly exceed by much the term as defined by the Registrar-General.

There are no official means of ascertaining the exact number of Catholics in England by reference to their births or to their deaths; because, in the statutes which provide for the registration of births and deaths, there is no provision which requires the religion of the parents of the child whose birth is registered to be recorded, nor that of the person whose death is registered.

But some light is thrown upon this point by reference to the registers of marriages.

The Registrar-General, under the provision of the above statute 6 and 7 Wm. IV, c. 85, keeps the registers of all the marriages which are solemnized in England, and the total numbers are shown in his annual reports.

In his tables, he distinguishes between those solemnized according to the Establishment, and those solemnized and contracted otherwise. Until 1844 he did not distinguish those celebrated according to the Roman Catholic faith. But from that year to the last published Report for 1861 he has done so, and the following table shows the total number of marriages registered by him, and the total number of those celebrated between Roman Catholics, with the ratio of the latter to the former:—

*Marriages Registered in England.*

	Total Number.	Roman Catholics.	Ratio of the Roman Catholics to the Total.
1844.....	132,249	2,280	·0172
'45.....	143,743	2,816	·0190
1846.....	145,664	3,027	·0200
'47.....	135,845	2,961	·0210
'48.....	138,230	3,658	·0260
'49.....	141,883	4,190	·0290
'50.....	192,744	5,623	·0360
1851.....	154,206	6,570	·0426
'52.....	158,782	7,479	·0471
'53.....	164,520	8,375	·0509
'54.....	159,727	7,813	·0490
'55.....	152,113	7,344	·0482
1856.....	159,337	7,527	·0472
'57.....	159,097	7,360	·0462
'58.....	156,070	6,643	·0420
'59.....	167,723	7,756	·0460
'60.....	170,156	7,800	·0464
1861.....	163,766	7,782	·0473

This table exhibits a most remarkable result in the early years. During the first five years there was a slow annual increase, but at the end of that period a most rapid increase occurred, so that in 1851 there were more than twice as many marriages as in 1846. In 1853 the number was the highest. Thenceforth there has been a decline, though in the last years of the series there has been a slight return to the increasing ratio.

But now let other tables be examined.

Year.	Total Number of Marriages.	Those of the Established Church.	Ratio.	Those not of the Established Church, excluding the Catholics.	Ratio.	Ratio of Roman Catholic Marriages.
1844....	132,249	120,009	·915	9,960	·075	·0172
'45....	143,743	129,515	·901	11,412	·079	·0190
1846....	145,664	130,509	·893	12,128	·083	·0200
'47....	135,845	120,876	·899	12,008	·088	·0210
'48....	138,230	121,469	·878	13,103	·093	·0260
'49....	141,883	123,182	·868	14,502	·102	·0290
'50....	152,744	130,959	·857	16,162	·105	·0360
1851....	154,206	130,958	·849	16,678	·108	·0426
'52....	158,782	133,882	·842	17,421	·109	·0471
'53....	164,520	138,042	·833	16,103	·099	·0599
'54....	159,747	134,109	·833	17,805	·111	·0490
'55....	152,113	127,751	·839	17,018	·111	·0482
1856....	159,337	133,619	·839	18,191	·114	·0472
'57....	159,097	131,031	·823	20,706	·13	·0462
'58....	156,070	128,082	·820	21,345	·136	·0420
'59....	167,723	136,210	·812	23,757	·141	·0460
'60....	170,156	137,370	·807	24,986	·146	·0464
1861....	163,706	130,697	·798	25,227	·154	·0473



This table exhibits a remarkable and somewhat unexpected result, inasmuch as it shows a steady and continuous decline in the marriages according to the Established Church, as compared with others. The gain to the Catholics has been of some trifling extent, but that to other Nonconformists has been very considerable.

In 1851, out of 1,000 marriages, there were 849 according to the Church of England, 108 Nonconformists, and 43 according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1861, out of 1,000, there were 798 according to the Church of England, 154 Nonconformists, and 48 of the Roman Catholic Church. The gain in the second class is 46, but in the third only 5. This is not a very alarming progress in the rate of conversion.

But these tables afford a means of arriving at a reasonable estimate of the numbers of the Roman Catholics themselves. In the Registrar-General's Twenty-Fourth Annual Report is given a table showing the proportion of marriages to 100 persons living, in a series of years, from 1838 to 1861.

In 1844 it was .801, in 1851 it was .858, and in 1861 it was .814. Now, referring to the Roman Catholic marriages above set forth for those years, and applying these scales, it will be found that, according to this computation, there were in round numbers about 300,000 Catholics in England in 1844, when the estimated population was 16,529,000, or 1.8 per cent.; 750,000 in 1851, when the population was returned at 17,982,849, or 4.2 per cent., and 900,000 in 1861, when the population was found to be 20,119,496, or 4.4 per cent. The increase in the first period of 7 years was  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , whereas in the second period of 10 years it was only  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

It is obvious that this is the result of some special and peculiar circumstance, and is not produced by the action of a progressing conversion of the inhabitants of this island. The increase was for a time very rapid, but then came a strong check, and the progress is slackened.

There is no great difficulty in rendering a complete explanation of this phenomenon.

The tables exhibit the return of all the marriages which are solemnized in England, consequently it includes those of the Irish and of foreigners. Now, it is a matter of notoriety that there has been a great immigration of Irish and of foreigners into England during the last 20 years. They marry in this country as elsewhere, and their marriages are included in these tables.

According to the Reports of the Census Commissioners, the number of foreigners in England in 1851 was 50,289; whereas, in 1861 they were 84,090, of whom 73,434 were Europeans. The number of Irish in England in 1841 was 289,404, *i.e.*, 1.8 per cent. upon a population of 15,900,000; in 1851 it was 519,959, or 2.9 per

cent. upon a population of 18,000,000; in 1861 it was 601,634, or 3·0 per cent. upon a population of 20,000,000.

Thus in 1851 the number of Catholics was 4·2 per cent. of the population, and that of the Irish 2·9 per cent.; in 1861 the number of Catholics was 4·4 per cent., and that of the Irish 3 per cent.

Now, the greater proportion of foreigners are French, Italian, Poles, Belgians, and Spanish, who are almost all Catholics, or Germans, who are partly of the same religion; while of the Irish in Ireland, it is not an unreasonable estimate to calculate five-sixths to be of the Roman Catholic faith.

The immigration of the Irish into England coincided with the increase in the Catholic marriages, and as that immigration has slackened, so the increase of those marriages has diminished, though the number of their children born in England, being counted with those born of English parents, may somewhat embarrass their accurate discrimination in the enumeration of the English Catholics.

Some farther opportunities have been afforded of supplying statistical information with reference to the present condition of the Catholic inhabitants of this country. These are obtained from certain returns respecting the Catholic paupers, the Catholic schools for the poor, and the Catholic prisoners.

The following tables are therefore supplied:—

First, as to Catholic paupers.

In a Return presented to the House of Commons in 1861, is given the number of in-door paupers belonging to the Church of England, of Roman Catholic, and of persons of other religious denominations, on the 1st January, 1860.

The total numbers are given thus:—

*Adults and Children under 16 Years of Age.*

	Adults.	Children.	Total.
Church of England .....	60,632	35,592	96,224
Roman Catholics .....	5,752	2,378	8,130
Other Religious Denominations .....	6,033	2,257	8,290

The above number of Roman Catholics are thus distributed:—

Counties.	Adults.	Children.
Bedfordshire .....	None	None
Berkshire .....	5	3
Bucks .....	None	None
Cambridgeshire .....	19	11
Cheshire .....	64	59
Cornwall .....	4	3
Cumberland .....	60	25

Counties.	Adults.	Children.
Derbyshire .....	21	19
Devonshire.....	16	8
Dorsetshire.....	3	4
Durham .....	76	—
Essex .....	68	40
Gloucestershire .....	60	16
Herefordshire.....	5	—
Herts .....	10	3
Huntingdonshire .....	2	—
Kent .....	136	41
Lancashire .....	2,099	1,181
Leicestershire.....	13	8
Lincolnshire .....	35	20
Middlesex .....	1,640	292
Monmouth .....	35	21
Norfolk .....	12	8
Northamptonshire.....	7	8
Northumberland .....	95	81
Nottinghamshire .....	35	22
Oxfordshire .....	2	2
Rutland .....	—	—
Salop .....	14	7
Somersetshire.....	15	3
Southampton .....	38	14
Staffordshire .....	95	65
Suffolk.....	5	1
Surrey.....	459	87
Sussex.....	17	10
Warwick.....	130	61
Westmoreland .....	4	—
Wilts .....	8	2
Worcestershire .....	39	29
York—East Riding .....	44	39
„ North „ .....	26	10
„ West „ .....	271	125
WALES.		
Anglesey.....	—	—
Brecknock .....	1	1
Cardigan.....	—	—
Carmarthenshire .....	—	—
Carnarvonshire .....	—	—
Denbighshire .....	1	1
Flintshire .....	1	—
Glamorganshire.....	53	37
Merionethshire .....	—	—
Montgomeryshire .....	—	—
Pembrokeshire .....	1	2
Radnorshire .....	—	—

There is no doubt that this return, which is confined to in-door paupers, is inaccurate with reference to the metropolis. Some large parishes made no return at all, and in others there had been no sufficient discrimination of the Roman Catholic inmates, particularly in reference to the children.

Here the result is much the same as was shown above in reference to the situation of the Catholic churches. There is not the same severance of the metropolis from the counties in which it is situated. But the gradation is thus:—Lancashire, Middlesex, Surrey, West Riding, Kent, Warwick, Staffordshire, Northumberland and Durham.

The Catholic paupers are found in the largest proportions in London and the manufacturing counties.

Secondly, as to the Catholic schools for the poor.

The following table shows the number of schools built with aid from the Parliamentary grant, and the number of scholars in average attendance, taken from the Reports of the Committee of Council on Education:—

	Description of School.							
	National or Church of England.		British and Foreign.		Wesleyan.		Roman Catholics in Great Britain.	
	Number of New Schools.	Number of Scholars.	Number of New Schools.	Number of Scholars.	Number of New Schools.	Number of Scholars.	Number of New Schools.	Number of Scholars.
1855	133	83,585	7	10,818	2	6,612	2	1,349
1856	133	162,863*	6	25,547*	11	11,103*	3	7,971*
'57	162	312,709	8	56,355	13	26,529	7	22,593
'58	191	380,779	4	68,945	21	28,841	10	26,779
'59	189	447,101	12	82,777	12	36,458	8	33,567
'60	180	463,461	10	82,997	11	38,918	7	39,690
1861	167	549,362	5	99,466	6	46,000	10	44,859
'62	123	576,067	5	99,274	8	45,440	2	47,265

\* In the middle of this year the capitation grant which had previously been confined to the rural districts, was extended to the whole of England and Wales.

This table shows no material increase in the number of new schools provided for Roman Catholic children, taken in comparison with those provided for all the other classes; but though the actual number of Roman Catholic scholars is very small as compared with the others, viz., 47,265 to 720,781, about one-sixteenth, it must be admitted that, regarding the rate of increase in all the classes, it will be found that the ratio of increase between 1856 and 1862 is greatest in the number of Roman Catholic scholars.

The numbers are as follow :—

National Schools.	British and Foreign.	Wesleyan.	Roman Catholic.
263,358 or '84 per cent.	42,919 or '76 per cent.	18,911 or '71 per cent.	24,672 or 1'09 per cent.

It must be remembered, however, that the first year in the above table was almost the commencement of the actual movement in respect of the Roman Catholic schools, whereas the other classes of schools have been very long in existence.

In the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the state of popular education in England, published in 1861, there is a large amount of statistical information, and the following table is extracted from that Report, and relates to the year 1858. It is necessary to observe, that the schools herein referred to are the separate departments of schools, and not the separate institutions, and the scholars are taken from those on the books, whereas in the table given from the Reports of the Committee of Council, the numbers given are those of the average attendants.

Counties.	Number of Roman Catholic Schools.	Number of Roman Catholic Scholars.	Income Exclusive of Government Aid.
			£ s. d.
Bedford .....	—	—	—
Berks .....	5	221	31 10 —
Bucks .....	1	60	*
Cambridge .....	2	69	—
Chester .....	13	1,427	513 2 —
Cornwall .....	5	261	*
Cumberland .....	5	620	110 — —
Derby .....	—	—	—
Devon .....	5	352	*
Dorset .....	2	119	*
Durham .....	17	2,322	552 10 —
Essex .....	8	296	*
Gloucester (including Bristol) ....	15	1,511	600 — —
Hereford .....	—	—	—
Hertford .....	2	64	*
Huntingdon .....	—	—	—
Kent .....	18	1,826	185 — —

\* No return was received from these counties.

Counties.	Number of Roman Catholic Schools.	Number of Roman Catholic Scholars.	Income Exclusive of Government Aid.		
			£	s.	d.
Lancaster .....	200	27,585	4,968	19	—
Leicester .....	3	208	226	10	—
Lincoln .....	2	118	27	—	—
Middlesex (including London)....	117	15,574	300	—	—
Monmouth .....	4	460	22	—	—
Norfolk .....	7	322	92	—	—
Northampton .....	1	20	—	—	—
Northumberland .....	15	3,016	650	9	—
Nottingham .....	4	772	361	—	—
Oxford.....	5	221	85	—	—
Rutland .....	—	—	—	—	—
Salop .....	3	134	31	—	—
Somerset .....	11	532	199	—	—
Southampton .....	18	850	*	—	—
Stafford .....	42	4,237	1,256	7	—
Suffolk.....	1	25	20	—	—
Surrey.....	34	3,512	17	—	—
Sussex .....	7	574	160	16	—
Warwick.....	32	3,287	975	2	—
Westmoreland .....	1	58	22	—	—
Wilts .....	3	216	*	—	—
Worcester .....	9	511	82	10	—
York .....	60	6,900	*	—	—
Anglesea .....	—	—	—	—	—
Brecon.....	—	—	—	—	—
Cardigan.....	—	—	—	—	—
Carmarthen .....	—	—	—	—	—
Carnarvon .....	—	—	—	—	—
Denbigh .....	1	77	40	—	—
Flint .....	6	425	197	—	—
Glamorgan .....	6	989	308	—	—
Merioneth .....	—	—	—	—	—
Montgomery .....	—	—	—	—	—
Pembroke .....	—	—	—	—	—
Radnor .....	—	—	—	—	—

\* No return was received from these counties.

In this year the total number of schools, *i.e.*, departments of schools, was 22,647; of these the number of Roman Catholic schools was 743. The total number of scholars inscribed on the books was 1,549,312; of these the number of Roman Catholic scholars was 85,866. The total annual income was 1,019,068*l.*, and the amount returned for Roman Catholic schools was 12,042*l.* 15*s.*

Here also it appears that the greatest number of poor Roman Catholic children are to be found in Lancashire, Middlesex, Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Warwickshire, Northumberland, and Durham.

This is nearly the same order as previously noticed.

Thirdly, as to Catholic prisoners.

Two returns of the House of Commons, the first in 1862 (Parliamentary Paper, No. 233), and the second in 1864 (Parliamentary Paper, No. 150), give for each prison in the kingdom on the 1st day of January, 1862, and the 1st day of January, 1864, respectively, the numbers of prisoners of each religious denomination, as entered on their caption, with other particulars, and from these returns the following tables have been extracted:—

Convict Prisons.	1st January, 1862.		1st January, 1864.	
	Total.	Roman Catholic.	Total.	Roman Catholic.
Chatham .....	1,094	199	1,096	71
Portsmouth .....	585	88	1,011	566
Portland .....	1,399	216	1,294	77
Dartmoor .....	1,095	181	742	113
Wakefield .....	396	124	398	14
Millbank .....	982	150	1,017	409
Pentonville .....	575	73	521	4
Brixton .....	624	234	584	90
Fulham Refuge .....	226	60	176	51
Woking Invalid .....	402	63	552	95
Parkhurst (male and female) .....	212	27	575	257
Broadmoor Asylum .....	—	—	104	—
Leicester .....	92	11	—	—
Totals .....	7,682	1,426	8,070	1,747

Ratio of the Roman Catholic convict prisoners in 1862, 18·5 per cent.; in 1864, 21·4 per cent.

County and Borough Gaols and Houses of Correction.	1st January, 1862.		1st January, 1864.	
	Total.	Roman Catholic.	Total.	Roman Catholic.
ENGLAND.				
Bedford County Gaol.....	93	5	179	10
Berks County Gaol and House of Correction, Reading.....	129	2	120	5
County Gaol and House of Correction, Abingdon.....	15	2	13	—
Bucks County Prison.....	131	3	117	6
Borough Gaol, Buckingham.....	—	—	—	—
Cambridge County Prison.....	41	1	49	—
Borough Gaol, Cambridge.....	27	1	41	1
House of Correction, Ely.....	17	—	21	2
„ Wisbeach.....	21	2	30	1
Chester County Gaol.....	112	38	170	65
House of Correction, Knutsford.....	257	61	320	63
City Gaol and House of Correction, Chester.....	39	5	85	32
Cornwall County Gaol, Bodmin.....	103	4	130	5
Borough Gaol, Falmouth.....	7	—	14	—
House of Correction, Penzance.....	—	—	5	—
Borough Gaol, Helston.....	—	—	1	—
Cumberland County Gaol, Carlisle.....	76	8	167	45
Derby County and Borough Gaol.....	308	22	271	18
Devon County Prison, Exeter.....	246	33	202	9
Borough Prison, Plymouth.....	66	10	45	3
„ Gaol, Barnstaple.....	7	—	8	—
„ „ and House of Correction, Tiverton.....	3	—	3	—
Borough Prison, Devonport.....	48	4	53	6
„ Gaol, Bradninch.....	—	—	—	—
„ „ Southmolton.....	1	—	3	—
Dorset County Gaol, Dorchester.....	158	21	91	2
Borough Gaol, Poole.....	2	—	4	1
Durham County Gaol.....	369	63	416	110
Essex County Gaol, Springfield.....	296	17	269	18
House of Correction, Little Ilford.....	20	2	23	1
Borough Gaol, Colchester.....	4	—	6	—
„ Maldon.....	—	—	—	—
Gloucester County Prison and House of Correction.....	223	13	256	14
City Bridewell, Bristol.....	41	10	58	13
Hereford County Gaol and House of Correction.....	71	—	57	2
City Gaol, Hereford.....	20	1	23	—
Hertford County Gaol.....	121	2	119	4
Gaol and House of Correction, St. Alban's.....	41	—	60	3
Huntingdon County Gaol.....	49	6	46	—



County and Borough Gaols and Houses of Correction.	1st January, 1862.		1st January, 1864.	
	Total.	Roman Catholic.	Total.	Roman Catholic.
<b>ENGLAND—Contd.</b>				
Kent County Prisons, Maidstone .....	568	45	484	44
County Gaol and House of Cor- } rection, Canterbury.....	151	12	100	10
City Prison, Canterbury.....	16	11	13	2
Town Gaol, Dover .....	46	8	35	6
Borough Prison, Sandwich.....	9	1	19	2
Gaol, Romney Marsh .....	2	—	—	—
Borough Gaol, Faversham .....	2	—	1	—
„ Tenderden .....	—	—	—	—
Lancaster County Gaol .....	93	30	97	39
Borough Gaol, Kirkdale.....	453	141	454	150
House of Correction, Preston.....	303	77	333	80
New Bailey Prison, Salford .....	462	147	541	158
Borough Gaol, Liverpool .....	888	485	997	487
City Gaol, Manchester .....	535	207	583	260
Leicester County Prison.....	199	18	196	16
Borough Gaol and House of } Correction, Leicester .....	55	4	61	2
Lincoln County Gaol .....	18	—	19	—
House of Correction, Louth .....	54	—	51	4
„ Spilsby.....	61	5	60	3
„ Kirton .....	56	3	70	11
„ Falkingham .....	53	2	39	2
„ Spalding .....	68	3	61	2
Lincoln City Gaol .....	15	—	26	4
House of Correction, Grantham .....	8	—	2	—
Borough Prison, Stamford .....	7	—	11	1
Middlesex, Gaol of Newgate .....	101	6	126	24
House of Correction, Coldbath } Fields* .....	1,816	391	1,816	391
House of Detention, Clerkenwell* .....	293	79	293	79
„ Correction, Westminster .....	526	183	673	235
City of London Prison, Holloway .....	376	67	401	90
Monmouth County Gaol.....	25	2	26	4
Borough Gaol, Usk .....	95	10	121	27
Norfolk County Gaol, Norwich Castle .....	130	2	116	4
House of Correction, Swaffham ....	63	2	62	1
City Gaol, Norwich.....	72	—	70	2
Borough Gaol, Great Yarmouth .....	28	2	46	1
„ Prison, King's Lynn ....	8	—	2	—
Northampton County Gaol.....	127	7	115	4
Gaol and House of Correction, } Peterborough .....	30	4	15	2
Borough Gaol and House of } Correction, Northampton ....	63	1	109	4
Northumberland County Gaol and } House of Correction, Morpeth ....	85	14	122	31
House of Correction, Tynemouth .....	11	1	18	4
Borough Gaol, Hexham .....	2	—	2	1
House of Correction, Alnwick.....	1	—	1	—

\* No separate returns were given for those two prisons for this year, and therefore the same numbers are here inserted as in the return for 1862.

County and Borough Gaols and Houses of Correction.	1st January, 1862.		1st January, 1864.	
	Total.	Roman Catholic.	Total.	Roman Catholic.
ENGLAND— <i>Contd.</i>				
Borough Prison, Newcastle-upon-Tyne .....	172	63	145	61
Gaol, Berwick-upon-Tweed .....	4	—	20	6
Nottingham County Gaol .....	47	1	32	4
House of Correction, Southwell .....	138	8	141	3
Borough Gaol and House of Correction, Nottingham .....	118	14	93	14
Oxford County Prison .....	96	2	115	11
City Prison, Oxford .....	18	2	41	5
Rutland County Gaol, Oakham .....	6	—	6	1
Salop County Gaol .....	153	11	164	12
Somerset County Gaol .....	142	2	129	6
House of Correction, Shepton Mallet .....	105	3	87	3
City Gaol, Bath .....	2,672	406	78	7
Southampton County Prison, Winchester .....	374	54	345	40
Borough Gaol, Portsmouth .....	101	15	76	12
„ Southampton .....	82	14	100	15
Stafford County Prison .....	663	94	664	73
Borough Gaol, Lichfield .....	—	—	—	No return
Suffolk County and Borough Prison, Bury St. Edmunds .....	89	1	111	—
County Gaol, Ipswich .....	80	—	102	3
Borough Gaol, Ipswich .....	15	1	18	—
Surrey County Gaol, Horsemonger-lane .....	117	17	137	27
House of Correction, Wandsworth .....	700	124	766	122
Sussex County Prisons, Lewes .....	219	15	215	22
Borough Gaol, Petworth .....	72	6	97	12
„ Winchelsea .....	—	—	—	—
„ Rye .....	—	—	4	—
Warwick County Prison .....	178	27	210	22
Borough Prison, Birmingham .....	383	67	397	73
Westmoreland County Prison, Appleby .....	4	1	14	1
House of Correction, Kendal .....	27	3	25	3
Wilts County Gaol, Salisbury .....	58	2	70	3
House of Correction, Devizes .....	81	3	104	8
Worcester County Gaol .....	284	12	224	14
City Gaol, Worcester .....	No return	—	95	8
York County Gaol .....	130	11	52	10
Borough Prison, Northallerton .....	124	38	136	41
House of Correction, Beverley .....	78	9	76	14
Borough Prison, Wakefield .....	800	139	1,107	247
„ Gaol, Kingston-upon-Hull .....	151	32	184	39
„ „ Leeds .....	275	56	286	75
House of Correction, Ripon .....	4	2	12	2
Borough Gaol, Richmond .....	—	—	3	—
House of Correction, York City .....	35	11	36	13
Borough Gaol, Scarborough .....	—	—	6	1

County and Borough Gaols and Houses of Correction.	1st January, 1862.		1st January, 1864.	
	Total.	Roman Catholic.	Total.	Roman Catholic.
WALES :				
Anglesea County Gaol, Beaumaris.....	11	4	23	7
Brecon County Gaol .....	22	2	36	6
Cardigan County Gaol.....	20	—	28	3
House of Detention, Aberystwith	—	—	—	—
Carmarthen County Prison .....	30	3	32	4
Carnarvon County Gaol .....	29	1	33	1
Denbigh County Gaol, Ruthin .....	31	6	57	2
Flint County Gaol .....	25	1	20	2
Glamorgan County Gaol, Cardiff .....	138	24	141	35
Borough Gaol, Swansea .....	94	23	139	40
Merioneth County Gaol, Dolgelly .....	19	4	25	4
Montgomery County Gaol .....	32	3	54	11
Pembroke County Gaol and House of } Correction, Haverfordwest .....	53	9	66	12
Radnor County Gaol, Presteign.....	12	—	12	—
Borough Gaol, New Radnor .....	—	—	—	—
Total (including Convict } Prisons).....	25,319	4,675	27,307	5,533

*Note.*—Ratios of Roman Catholics in 1862, 18·4 per cent.; in 1864, 20·3 per cent.

Here the same result is shown, namely, that the Roman Catholic prisoners are most numerous in the counties already referred to. But the table exhibits a very serious and striking result, namely, that while the Roman Catholic population of England and Wales does not amount to  $\frac{1}{20}$ th part of the inhabitants, one-fifth of the inmates of the gaols in those countries are set down as of that religion, and the ratio of such inmates appears from the experience of the last two years to be rapidly increasing.

This fact, while it serves to denote the grades and classes of the principal body of the members of that church in England, renders it a most imperative duty upon those who have the general control over the government of this island, as well as those who profess to have the spiritual ruling of this church, to take prompt and urgent steps to remove the demoralisation which is thus shown to exist among its members.

All these tables show the same result. The Roman Catholic churches and chapels are found in the greatest number in the metropolis, and in certain counties where there are large populations massed together. There also are found the greatest number of Roman Catholic paupers, of Roman Catholic poor schools, and of Roman Catholic offenders.

It appears from the Report on the last Census, that the European

foreigners whose number has been already given as 73,434, were thus grouped in the divisions of the country:—

London.....	37,956	West Midland .....	3,465
South Eastern Division .....	4,124	North Midland .....	1,252
South Midland.....	1,275	North Western.....	7,908
Eastern .....	1,247	Yorkshire .....	4,187
South Western.....	2,887	Northern .....	6,042
Monmouth and Wales.....		3,091	

And from the General Report on the Census of 1861, p. 40, is extracted the following passage:—

“The distribution of the Irish immigrants over England is shown in the tables. Thus, 245,933 of them are in Lancashire and Cheshire, 124,646 in the Metropolitan Counties (Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent), 50,664 in Yorkshire, and 42,753 in Durham and Northumberland. Wherever employment is active, the Irish flock; and they abound in the large towns: London, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Bradford, and Sheffield, generally occupying particular streets and quarters.”

The foreigners and the Irish principally abound where the Roman Catholics were found in greatest numbers, and thus corroboration is supplied to the induction above expressed, as to the source of the late increase of the Roman Catholics in England.

As a corollary, it is to be observed, that the number of Roman Catholics in Ireland was—

In 1834 .....	6,436,060
„ '61 .....	5,505,765

The number of members of the Established Church—

In 1834.....	853,160
„ '61.....	691,872

The proportion of Roman Catholics to members of the Established Church—

In 1834, 100 Roman Catholics to 13·25 members of the Established Church.*			
„ '61, 100	„	to 15·35	„

Here is no less a loss than 2 per cent. in the proportion of the religion in Ireland, according to the General Report of the Census Commissioners for that country; and there should be an addition of 581,154 Protestant Dissenters, and 14,695 of other persuasions to the numbers for the last year.

It seems, therefore, that there is only a shifting of the members

\* Parliamentary Paper, House of Commons, 1863, No. 289.

of this church from one part of the United Kingdom to the other ; and it will be a curious problem hereafter to be solved, as to what will be its result, whether a conversion of the greater body into the faith of the less, or an absorption of the latter into the former, with a remnant, such as has long existed where the religion is preserved as an heirloom of the estate or a memorial of ancestral dignity.

This paper, however, which deals with the present condition of the Roman Catholics in the country, has been compiled in no spirit of hostility to them. The author is, and always has been, a steady supporter of the extreme views of toleration and religious liberty. He would regret that opinions and principles which he believes to be erroneous should prevail, yet, if such were the result of free and spontaneous discussion and inquiry, he would cheerfully acquiesce. But when a statement of a fact so startling as that enunciated in the first part of this paper is made by one of the eminent men of the present day, and is set forth as supported by statistics, it is proper that it should be fully tested, and its accuracy carefully determined by this Society. With that view the author has investigated it, and firmly believes it to be completely refuted by the investigation.

Individual cases of conversion, where the persons are of public note and distinguished station, have undoubtedly occurred recently ; such examples have, indeed, never been rare, and are found not altogether without reciprocity. But there is not the smallest ground for any real alarm as to the progress of the Roman Catholic faith among the English people, or that the English nation is about to return to the spiritual control and subjection from which their ancestors released them three centuries ago. The secessions from the Church of England have been matter of remark ; but it will be seen that it is the Protestant Dissenters, and not the Roman Catholics, that have made an appreciable assault upon it.

NOTE.—The following information is obtained as to the Roman Catholics in the British army. In the year 1863-64 there were 69 Protestant chaplains in common, and 19 Roman Catholics ; in the year 1864-65, there were the same number of Protestants, but only 17 Roman Catholics. The pay was as follows :—for Protestants in the former year, 18,266*l.*, in the latter, 17,626*l.*, and for the Roman Catholics 4,014*l.* and 3,786*l.* respectively. See Parliamentary Paper, House of Commons, No. 240, Sess. 1864.

In 1861, out of an army of 205,829 men, 58,630 were Roman Catholics ; in 1862, out of 196,171 men, 56,104 were Roman Catholics ; and in 1863, out of 201,776 men, 58,623 were Roman Catholics. The proportion is less than one-third, but more than one-fourth. Of the marines the numbers were as follows :—in 1861, total, 17,296, Roman Catholics, 1,562 ; in 1862, total, 17,395,

Roman Catholics, 1,493 ; in 1863, total, 15,634, Roman Catholics, 1,547, being about one-eleventh.\*

According to the "Report on the Census," iii, 147, where the number of the army is given for 1861 as 219,799, those born in Ireland are set down as 69,075 ; of the marines set down as 18,143, those born in Ireland were 2,056.

\* See Parliamentary Paper, House of Commons, No. 382, Sess. 1864.

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